

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02043 062144Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
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R 060935Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 633  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2043

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, MY, KU  
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN FON MIN VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: JAKARTA 4369

1. MALAYSIAN FON MIN RITHAUDDEEN BIN ISMAIL DEPARTED KUWAIT APRIL 4 AFTER THREE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON HIS DEPARTURE INCLUDED AN EXPRESSED KUWAITI INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA, AND NOTED THAT THE KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD STUDY SOME ADDITIONAL PROJECTS WHICH THE MALAYSIANS HAVE PROPOSED. THE COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT A BINATIONAL ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WAS FORMED (OF SPECIALISTS WHO MET DURING THE VISIT) WHICH AGREED THAT A TEAM OF EXPERTS WOULD FOLLOW UP ON PLANS AND PROJECTS. AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS ALSO WAS REPORTEDLY SIGNED.

2. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 3, THE MALAYSIAN FON MIN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR KUWAITI ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN "MANY PROJECTS." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY CONDEMNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN SOUTH LEBANON AND CALLED FOR ISRAELI  
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WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY. THE PREVIOUS DAY THE KUWAITI FON MIN TOLD THE PRESS THAT A KUWAITI ECONOMIC DELEGATION COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WOULD VISIT MALAYSIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE, THE KUWAITI PRESS PICKED UP A REPORT FROM JAKARTA TO THE EFFECT THAT KUWAIT, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA WERE STUDYING THE BATAM REFINERY CONCEPT

ONCE AGAIN.

3. ONE LOCAL NEWS REPORT QUOTED RITHAUDDEEN BIN ISMAIL AS ASSERTING THAT THE GOK WOULD BE PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR HIGHWAY BETWEEN "KUALA KRAI AND KUALA LIPIS."

4. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO MENTION IN THE PRESS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN MALAYSIAN VISITORS AND THE NEW KUWAITI OIL MINISTER, SHEIKH ALI KHALIFA AL-SABAH, WHO IS KNOWN TO DISFAVOR "POLITICAL" INVESTMENTS ABROAD, IN WHICH CATEGORY THE LONG-DISCUSSED BATAM REFINERY AND MORE RECENTLY MENTIONED REFINERY IN MALAYSIA MAY BE PERCEIVED TO FALL. THE MINISTER'S RISE TO PROMINENCE MAY MAKE EVEN LESS LIKELY KUWAITI PARTICIPATION IN SUCH PROJECTS, SINCE BOTH HE AND FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI (RECENTLY IN INDONESIA) ARE THOUGHT TO VIEW OVERSEAS REFINERY INVESTMENTS FROM HARD NOSED POSITIONS. IN THIS SENSE, WITH REGARD TO REFTEL, THERE IS LESS DIVISION THAN HERETOFORE WITHIN THE GOK. ALSO, THE REPORTED KUWAITI INSISTENCE ON RETURN OF 20 PERCENT ON A BATAM INVESTMENT IS OF THE SAME MAGNITUDE AS SIMILAR REPORTED DEMANDS (17 PERCENT) ON ROMANIA, IN CONNECTION WITH A LONG-DISCUSSED REFINERY PROJECT THERE. MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EAID, OVIP, MY, KU, (RITHAUDDEEN BIN ISMAIL, AHMAD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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